




MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

ROGER BERLINER
COUNCILMEMBER
DISTRICT 1

MEMORANDUM

February 25, 2011

TO: Planning, Housing, and Economic Development Committee

FROM: Council Vice-President Roger Berliner 

RE: Recommended North Bethesda Recreation Center CIP

I write today regarding the status of the proposed North Bethesda Recreation Center. As you know, the facility is called for in the 1992 North Bethesda-Garrett Park Master Plan. Unfortunately, the community's expectations for a first-class recreation center have been slowed by significant delays – and I appreciate that these delays are the result of fiscal concerns and the ongoing challenge of identifying a site. However, I was surprised to learn that the County Executive has recommended the complete closeout of this project as a FY11-16 CIP Amendment.

In lieu of closing out the North Bethesda Recreation Center project completely, I urge members of the PHED Committee to recommend delaying CIP funds to the out years, when the Council is likely to have a more concrete understanding of our fiscal situation and potential alternatives. I also believe it is appropriate to not take final definitive action insofar as this development has not been discussed with the affected community.

Our constituents have waited long enough for a North Bethesda Recreation Center – as promised by our County Government. I would urge you not to support the County Executive's recommendation to close out the project and instead delay the funds so that the project remains a reality.

CC: Valerie Ervin, Council President
Gabriel Albornoz, Director, Montgomery County Department of Recreation
David Dise, Director, Montgomery County Department of General Services
Diane Schwartz-Jones, Office of the County Executive
Joe Beach, Director, Office of Management and Budget
Vivan Yao, Council Staff
Della Stolsworth, President, Luxmanor Citizens Association
Ken Hurdle, Luxmanor Citizens Association